2019

Butte County, CA
Regional Federal Legislative Platform

February 12, 2019

Butte County
• CALIFORNIA •

BCAG
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ButteCounty CALIFORNIA

BCAG BUTTE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Butte County, CA
Regional Federal Legislative Platform

In the last few years, the communities of Butte County have experienced more than their fair share of declared disasters, including a record-setting drought, the Oroville Dam Spillway Failure and related flooding from an "Atmospheric River", and multiple wildfires including the Wall Fire, the Wind Complex Fire, and most recently, the Camp Fire, which was the most destructive wildfire in the history of the State. One of the County's top priorities is to support the recovery and rebuilding of all Butte County communities impacted by these emergencies while reinforcing emergency management and disaster preparedness activities to mitigate the impacts of any future disasters. Through the Regional Federal Legislative Platform, the County will advocate for federal assistance to support disaster response activities as well as the everyday needs of the communities and residents in four major areas, including:

Land Use and Infrastructure

Smart economic expansion, growth, and sustainability are top priorities for Butte County. The County strives to enhance the local economy to support our residents today while providing them with new opportunities for the future. Regional planning provides a strategy that will lead to prosperity within the region for all local jurisdictions and helps provide for organized future growth and the public services that will need to be established to accommodate that growth. Upgrading and maintaining our roads, water supply, flood, and wastewater infrastructure not only helps the County provide basic services to our current residents, but it helps provide the foundation for future economic growth and business development.

Natural Resources and Agriculture

Butte County is a place of natural beauty with countless opportunities for recreation in both rural and urban environments. The County supports efforts that enhance and protect those natural resources and allows the public to utilize and enjoy all that Butte County has to offer. Agriculture is the #1 industry in Butte County, acting as a major base for economic gain. Butte County strives to ensure the agriculture industry remains strong for our residents, our community, our region, and our state.

Community Support

One of Butte County's all-encompassing goals is to preserve and enhance our local communities and ensure that the way of life our residents love so much is not impacted by the challenges of today or the changes of tomorrow. To this end, we strive to promote community unity through unique opportunities and dependable public service. Butte County understands that many of our residents, including our youth, face a variety of challenges related to mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, homelessness, and gangs. A priority of the County's is to provide our at-risk populations with the services they need to overcome these challenges.

Public Safety

Butte County endeavors to provide a safe and healthy community for its residents. To this end, the County focuses on ensuring that all communities are protected from public safety threats and have access to critical health and safety services. We also strive to ensure we support our residents in their everyday lives by providing reliable law enforcement and emergency response services. A large portion of Butte County is either located in the regulatory floodplain or is protected by public flood protection infrastructure. To ensure that residents remain protected, the status of the County's flood control infrastructure remains a top priority.

Land Use and Infrastructure

Transportation

- Support improvements to the Highway 70 corridor to enhance economic development and public safety.
- Support maintenance and construction of local roads and transportation infrastructure including projects on Highway 99, Cohasset Road, and the Skyway.

Water

- Support wastewater infrastructure projects throughout the County including, but not limited to Palermo, County septage ponds, and the SC-OR Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Support development of a feasibility study and eventual construction of facilities to deliver the County's Table A allocation from Lake Oroville to local water purveyors.
- Support water supply infrastructure projects that increase the reliability and efficiency of the County's groundwater and surface water supplies.
- Support development of increased water storage.

Planning

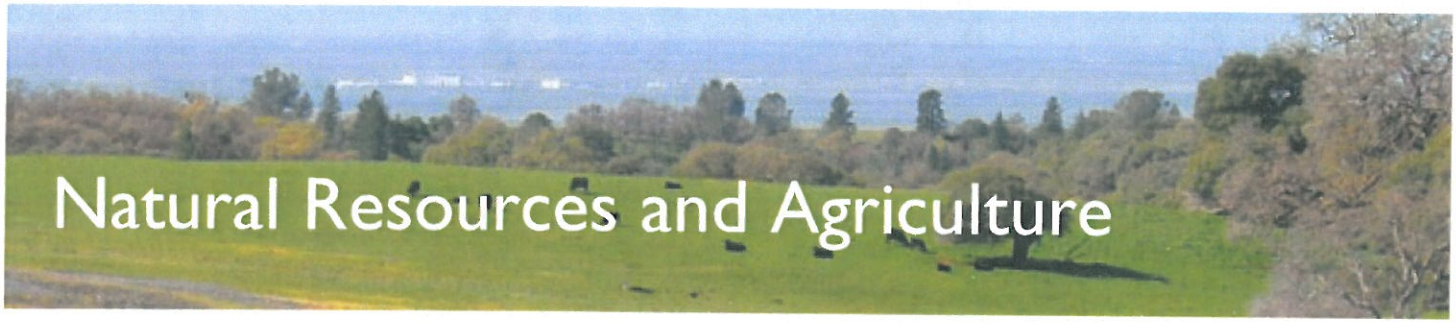
- Support finalization and implementation of the Butte Regional Conservation Plan.
- Support implementation of projects and programs included in the Northern Sacramento Valley IRWMP.
- Support programs and actions that streamline federal regulatory and environmental processes to expedite delivery of planning and construction projects in a way that does not compromise environmental laws.

Flood

- Support the Sutter-Butte Flood Control Agency's construction of the West Feather River Levee Improvement Project.
- Develop projects identified in the Mid-Upper Sacramento River Regional Flood Management Plan.
- Engage with Corps of Engineers on certification and maintenance of levees throughout the County.
- Support the design and construction of the 3B's flood management project.

Communications

- Support public telecommunications, radio, and broadband infrastructure and technology.
- Support programs that expand the use of GIS and GPS technologies for community and emergency response planning.



Natural Resources and Agriculture

Forest Management

- Support federal assistance for improved forest management.
- Pursue legislative and regulatory changes to address tree mortality on federal lands.

Public Access to Federal Lands

- Support preservation and enhancement of public access to federal lands for diverse purposes, such as off-road vehicle use, wood cutting and dispersed camping.
- Support uniformity of rule application across national forests.
- Support least restrictive, versus most restrictive, rules to protect endangered species.

Local Water Rights and Management

- Support preservation of water rights, area of origin, and local control of land use and water management.
- Support development of increased water storage.

Agricultural Floodplain Management

- Advocate for changes to the National Flood Insurance Program that create regulatory relief for agricultural areas and rural communities located in the floodplain.

Pest Prevention

- Support additional funding and track regulations for the detection and control of various invasive pests harmful to agriculture in California.

Drought Response and Mitigation

- Support legislation that will provide emergency economic assistance to Butte County to address localized drought impacts.
- Oppose legislation that would result in changes to water right priorities and/or weakening of environmental standards in the Delta.

Marijuana Related Issues

- Monitor and track legislation and policy related to commercial marijuana activities and cultivation for personal use.
- Advocate for federal policies that provide direction to federal agencies and local governments on the regulation of land use and environmental impacts associated with commercial marijuana activities, including cultivation.

Secure Rural Schools Program

- Monitor legislation reauthorizing the Secure Rural Schools Act.
- Support full funding of the program and pursue changes to the program to allow local control and more flexible use of funds.

Public Safety

Relicensing of Oroville Project

- Engage the congressional delegation, relevant congressional committees, and the Administration regarding the FERC relicensing of the Oroville Project and reimbursement of local costs associated with providing services to the Oroville Project.

Wild Fire Protection

- Monitor and track federal assistance opportunities for wildfire protection programs.

Juvenile Justice Programs

- Pursue funding for juvenile justice programs of the County's at-risk youth including opportunities to create child protective custody shelters.

Drug Endangered Children Program

- Pursue funding for staff and operations of the Drug Endangered Children Program.

Public Safety Facilities, Equipment, and Personnel

- Pursue funding for contruction and rehabilitation of public safety facilities including the jail, a forensic computer center, and fire stations.
- Pursue funding for public safety equipment, technology, training, and personnel.

Incarceration Impacts

- Support full funding for states and counties of costs associated with incarcerating undocumented aliens for the federal government along with no adverse actions.

Cybersecurity

- Support funding and programs for cybersecrurity services, training, and equipment.

Community Support

Camp Fire Recovery

- Support recovery and rebuilding efforts of all communities impacted by the Camp Fire.

Health and Well Being

- Monitor key provisions from the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act related to county programs.
- Support mental health, drug, and alcohol services for the County's adult population as well as the County's at-risk youth population.
- Advocate for funding of senior care and service programs including those authorized under the Elder Care Act.
- Support child welfare and child support programs that benefit the physical, mental, and financial well-being of children.

National Flood Insurance Program

- Monitor legislation pertaining to FEMA flood zone mapping and the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Support policies that ensure the NFIP remains affordable.

Housing

- Support programs and funding to provide housing and support services for the County's homeless population.

Public Facilities

- Support funding for veteran facilities and programs including veterans memorial halls, 900 Esplanade, and the Veterans Memorial Park.
- Support community facilities and programs throughout the County including parks, libraries, community centers, government support buildings, a new Emergency Operations Center, and the County fairgrounds.

Economic and Workforce Development

- Support federal tax incentive programs such as the New Market Tax Credit and Opportunity Zone programs that encourage private investment in public facilities and projects.
- Support existing, comprehensive program and pursue additional funding for workforce and economic development, and infrastructure improvements to serve business development and expansion in the County.

Tribal Issues

- Monitor and track policy initiatives and legislation pertaining to casino development on tribal lands.
- In order to address critical problems in the existing fee-to-trust process, support legislation to better define the roles of Congress and the executive branch, establish clear and specific congressional trust acquisition standards, and create a more transparent process.

Election Reform

- Monitor and track legislation pertaining to local election regulations and processes. Support federal initiatives that provide funding for reform and equipment that bring efficiences to the election process.

Camp Fire

On November 8th, 2018, the worst fire in the history of California began in Butte County. The Camp Fire consumed 150,000 acres and led to the destruction of over 13,696 single family homes, 276 multi-family residences, 528 commercial building, and over 4,300 minor structures. It also damaged an additional 462 single family homes and 102 commercial buildings. In addition to the immediate, direct impact of a fire of this magnitude, there are long term impacts throughout the County and other local jurisdictions and special districts. Such impacts include unanticipated costs that could go on for years, in conjunction with reduced local revenues in the form of property taxes, sales taxes, transient occupancy taxes, and franchise fees, just to name a few.

The large number of survivors and the need to provide housing in jurisdictions outside of the burn area has led to populations in cities within Butte County growing to sizes not anticipated for another 10 years. This is placing strains on current level of funding and resources.

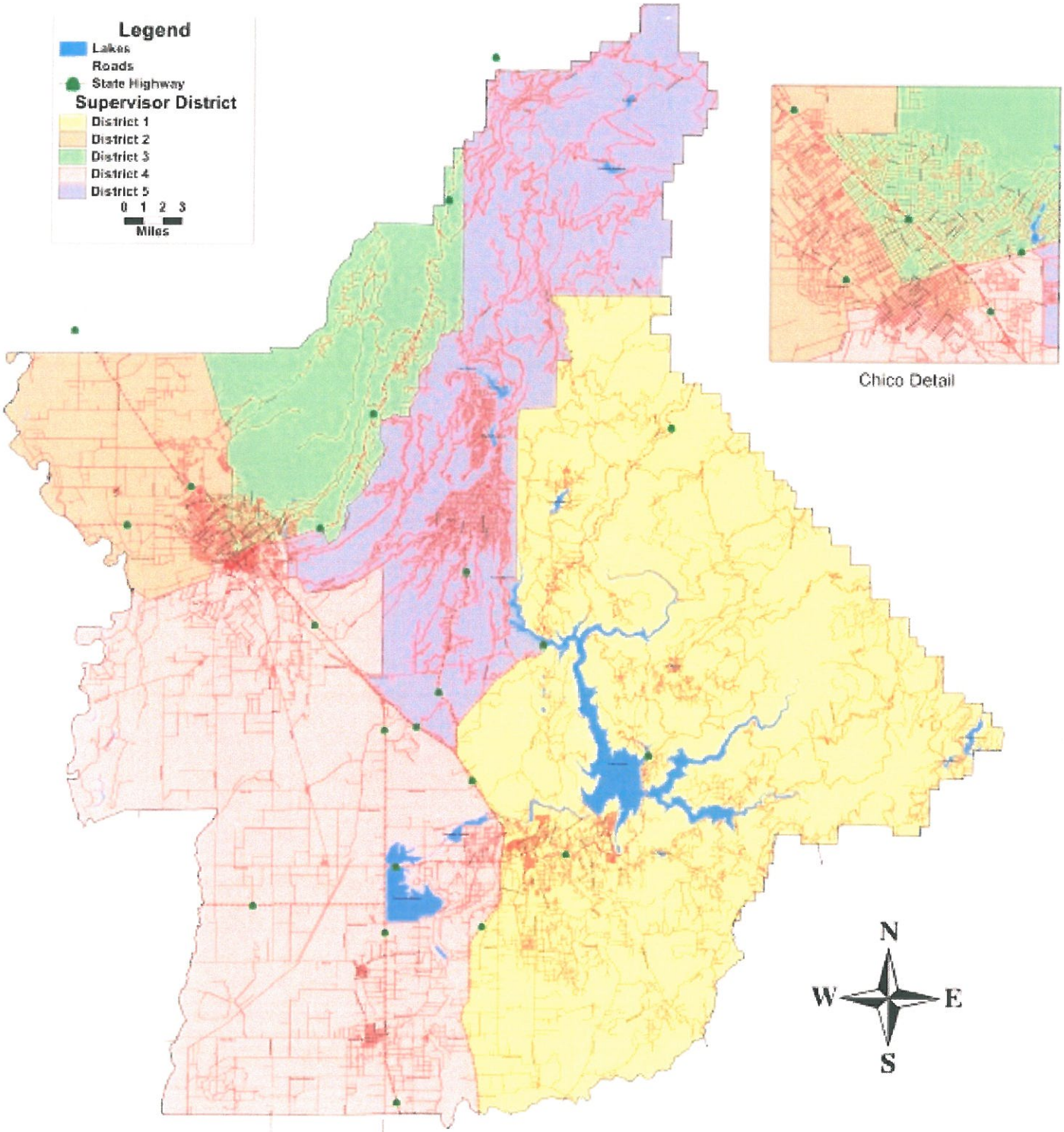
Funding

- Advocate for revenue backfill for all impacted jurisdictions.
- Support legislation that waives the local share of cost of all emergency response and disaster recovery activities.
- Advocate for federal funding with minimal cost share for infrastructure projects destroyed, damaged, or impacted by the fire.

Housing

- Support legislation that provides for quick construction of housing stock in Northern California.

Emergency Preparedness

- Support legislation that provides preparedness and mitigation funding.
- Support legislation to repair roads to pre-disaster condition fund for expanded evacuation routes.
- Support legislation providing funding for governmental services for jurisdictions hosting survivors.
- Support legislation for funding for end-market solutions for timber and water quality monitoring.

Map of Butte County